

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 840

By Carr J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Cliff and Jane Sharp, founders of Greenhouse Ministries.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious figures who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Cliff and Jane Sharp, founders of Greenhouse Ministries, are two such religious figures who have dedicated many years of service to the Lord and their community; and

WHEREAS, Clifford Eli Sharp was born on March 24, 1939, in Borger, Texas; his family moved to Arkansas, and he graduated from Mountain Home High School in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp was recruited by the New York Yankees to play baseball and had planned on attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, but while he was working in the oil fields that summer, his mother signed him up to attend Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, where he earned an Education degree in math, general science, and health and physical education; in 1968, Cliff Sharp earned a Master of Education in Science from Antioch College; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Cliff Sharpe taught and coached at Beebe High School from 1961 to 1963, Lake County Schools from 1963 to 1964, and Harding Academy from 1964 to 1968; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Harding University, Cliff Sharp played baseball and football; he went on to coach football at several schools in Arkansas but returned to Harding University in 1968 to coach football and track and teach Earth Science and Geography; during

this time he served as the president of the Arkansas Athletic Congress and served as the official national Acutrack reader for outdoor and indoor national track meets; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharp also served as the head coach for the USA decathlon team for several events and became an internationally recognized track official and was nominated to be an alternate official for the Los Angeles Olympics; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as a coach for twenty-four years at Harding University, nineteen years of which he served as the Director for Camp Salado/Tahkodah; and

WHEREAS, Cliff Sharp also worked as a surgery assistant at the Nigerian Christian Hospital in Africa in the summer of 1978 and taught community health at Onichianga Bible College; and

WHEREAS, Jane Dare (Ball) Sharp was born on April 15, 1942, in Canton, North Carolina, to Mildred Ball; her family moved to Columbia, Tennessee, and she graduated from Central High School in 1960; and

WHEREAS, she followed her sister to Harding University, during which time she met Cliff Sharp; the couple married on June 6, 1961, and their blessed union produced three daughters; and

WHEREAS, Jane Sharp owned an antique store in Searcy; an active member of her community, Mrs. Sharp has been involved with numerous civic organizations, including founding the Sunshine School for students with special needs, which Mr. and Mrs. Sharp became involved in to help their own daughter, Candace; and

WHEREAS, Jane and Cliff Sharp serve on many boards and coalitions, including the Murfreesboro Homeless Task Force, the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of Rutherford County (CADCOR) Board of Directors, the Emergency Food and Shelter Board, Domestic Violence Board of Directors, National Night Out Organizer, Rutherford County Literacy Advisory Council, Read to Succeed, members of Christian Life Church, In Line Pastors Fellowship, and R Connection; and

WHEREAS, upon Mr. Sharp's retirement from Harding University in 1987, he and Mrs. Sharp relocated to Tennessee; Mr. Sharp served as Director of the Pregnancy Support Center in Murfreesboro for seven years, and Mrs. Sharp served as a counselor; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. and Mrs. Sharp founded Greenhouse Ministries, a non-profit, faith-based service agency that specializes in serving those in the community who are underserved; providing counseling; classes on budgeting, parenting, computers, and earning a GED; as well as food, clothing, and housing for single mothers and homeless veterans; and

WHEREAS, together, Cliff and Jane Sharp have grown Greenhouse Ministries from a ministry in Section 8 housing to its current size with an education building, a ministry center, a thrift store, and a warehouse; and

WHEREAS, for several years, Greenhouse Ministries has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Middle Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Cliff and Jane Sharp, founders of Greenhouse Ministries, for their dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens and offer our sincerest wishes for every continued success as an uplifting beacon of the Lord's good will.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.